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Message Text

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20
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 NSCE-00 /070 W
---------- 053800
R 010845Z APR 75
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3485
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB, UR
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN PEKING RELATED TO CAMBODIA

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DC HOLDRIDGE APRIL 1, FRENCH DCM MALO MENTIONED THAT SIHANOUK MADE ARRANGEMENTS LAST WEEK IN ADVANCE OF SOVIET RECOGNITION OF THE GRUNK TO HAVE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV INVITE HIM TO DINNER. DINNER WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE MARCH 29

AND AS FAR AS MALO KNEW HAD TAKEN PLACE AS SCHEDULED.SIHANOUK'S OBVIOUS

PURPOSE ACCORDING TO MALO WAS TO CREATE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS IN HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO DRAW ON THEM FOR THEIR BACKING IN FUTURE POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS IN CAMBODIA. MALO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT SIHANOUK SAYS NOW ABOUT ALLOWING ALL REAL POWER TO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE KHMER ROUGE, THE PRINCE INTENDS TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO BUILD UP HIS OWN POWER POSITION. MALO DESCRIBED SIHANOUK TODAY AS AN ACTOR SPEAKING LINES FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION WHICH DO NOT NECSSARILY ACCORD WITH HIS REAL INTENTIONS.

2. MALO ADDED THAT SIHANOUK KNEW THE TOLSTIKOV INVITATION WOULD IRRITATE THE CHINESE, AND SO TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM HAD ALSO
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ARRANGED EVEN EARLIER TO BE INVITED TO DINNER BY THE ALBANIAN

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AMBASSADOR. ADMITTEDLY THE ALBANIANS DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH IN TERMS
OF WORLD POWER POLITICS, BUT AT LEAST SIHANOUK WOULD BE ABLE TO INFORM

THE CHINESE THAT HIS POLICY WAS TO CONSULT WITH ALL FORCES.

3. MALO SAID FURTHER THAT SIHANOUK IS NOW DOING MUCH THINKING ABOUT
THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE MIGHT RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. THE PRINCE

HAS IN MIND MAKING A BIG SHOW BY GOING BACK IN TWO AIRCRAFT SUPPLIED
BY THE CHINESE, COMPLETE WITH PERSONAL FRIENDS, MEMBERS OF HIS
ENTOURAGE, AND EVEN SOME FOREIGN AMBASSADORS STATIONED IN PEKING
WHOSE COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE GRUNK.

4. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DEPARTURE FROM PEKING FOR CAMBODIA OF
MEMBERS OF THE GRUNK, MALO CONFIRMED THAT SUCH DEPARTURES HAD
INDEED TAKEN PLACE TO THE POINT WHERE OUT OF 150-200 CAMBODIANS
WHO HAD BEEN HERE PREVIOUSLY ONLY 15-20 REMAIN. THE GRUNK HEADQUARTERS

IN THE PEACE HOTEL COMPOUND (WHICH INCIDENTALLY IS THE AREA ONCE
OCCUPIED BY THE SOVIET ADVISORS PRIOR TO JULY 1960) IS NOW ALMOST
EMPTY. MALO DECLARED THAT A NUMBER OF CONSEQUENTIAL PERSONS
WERE AMONG THOSE WHO HAD DEPARTED PEKING, AND IT SEEMD TO HIM THAT
STEPS WERE OBVIOUSLY BEING TAKEN TO SET UP A NEW GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

IN CAMBODIA.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT,
MALO REMARKED THAT HE HAD ASKED HIS CAMBODIAN FRIENDS HERE
WHY THEY HAD NOT ALREADY SET UP A TEMPORARY CAPITALS SOMEWHERE IN
CAMBODIA. THE ANSWER WAS THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT LEAD TO A SITUATION
IN WHICH THE COUNTRY REMAINED PARTIONED, WITH ONE CAPITAL IN PHNOM
PENH AND THE OTHER OUTSIDE IT. WHAT THE GRUNK WANTS IS TO
ESTABLISH FULL CONTROL FROM PHNOM PENH.

6. AS A FINAL COMMENT, MALO SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT AN IMPORTANT
"VISITATION" TO PEKING WOULD BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS
BY A POLITICAL FIGURE FROM CAMBODIA. MALO DID NOT KNOW WHO THE
CAMBODIAN VISITOR WOULD BE, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD BE
KHIEU SAAGHAN.
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